

Introduction to this Newsletter



Damascus Christian School is an educational ministry of Damascus Community Church. Since there are so many patrons involved in this ministry, I will publish a monthly electronic newsletter to keep everyone abreast of news and upcoming events. Moreover, the newsletter can be used to discover academic successes and outreach opportunities within DCS and our community. Don't forget to also frequently check our website, www.dcs4you.org. I'm looking forward to a terrific year!

- Principal Zachary Davidson

Recent News

WORK DAY A SUCCESS: On August 5th and 6th, over 40 volunteers came to spruce up DCS. The tasks volunteers helped with included painting classrooms and hallways and cleaning up storage facilities. We want to send a huge THANK YOU to everyone who served the school and church by giving your time. It was a great time of fun and fellowship. If you were unable to attend, we will be planning more workdays in the future.



NEW SHOP CLASS: We are excited to offer a shop class to our secondary students this year and have been busy creating a classroom space on campus. We feel especially blessed that a parent donated all his electrical expertise and materials. Unfortunately, we are still in need of tools and building supplies to get this class up and running. If you have any of the following that you would be willing to lend or donate please contact the school.

- Any tools (hammers, screwdrivers, saws, drills, wrenches, tool boxes, gloves...)
- Materials (sheetrock, sheetrock tape, mud, nails, screws...)



SAFETY UPDATE:

Over the summer, changes to our facility and policies were made to increase student safety. We have a new video/buzz-in system that will allow entrance into the building, so ALL exterior doors can remain locked during the day. Also, door locks have been re-keyed, and video cameras have been upgraded across the campus.

We request that all school guests and parents use the video/buzz-in system located in the lower courtyard. Although this may be an inconvenience, it will enable us to provide a more secure campus for your children. We would like to express our appreciation to those who generously gave during the 2014 auction to provide these security upgrades.

STAFF CHANGES: We have new eagles!! Please warmly welcome our new staff members and make note of assignment changes that existing staff have made over the summer. Please note: we are still in need of a part-time science teacher for our junior high students.

- **Kristine Gandara** (4th grade)
- **Elaine Milsark** (6th grade)
- **Jessica Denton** (secondary social studies and Bible)
- **TBD** (junior high science)

Please pray for all our staff throughout the year as they use their skill sets to minister to our students.

Upcoming Events



Big changes are ahead—If you haven't heard, DCS is changing the length of its school day. Secondary students will begin at 8:15 A.M. and will end at 3:05 P.M., while elementary students will begin at 8:15 A.M. but will end at 2:55 P.M. These changes to our school day accommodate for recently modified requirements involving seat time made by the state of Oregon.

- **DCC's Car Show "Cruise the Road to Damascus":** The whole family can enjoy free food, Fords, and fun on August 20th from 8 – 2 P.M.
- **DCC's Family Movie Nights:** Come for a free dinner (5:30 P.M.) and free movie (6 P.M.) in the DCC auditorium that the whole family can enjoy. *Frozen* will be showing on August 21st, and *Up* will be showing September 18th.
- Seniors depart for Yellowstone on August 26th.
- Juniors depart for Washington, D.C. on August 27th.
- First day of school for 9-10th graders (Living Classrooms) is August 29th.
- Labor Day Weekend: NO SCHOOL on Friday, September 2nd or Tuesday, September 6th.
- First day of school for K-8th graders is Wednesday, September 7th.
- **All-school Parent Dinner and Orientation** is September 8th beginning at 6:00 P.M.—FREE dinner provided!
- School pictures will be taken September 20th.
- Come to the DCC Women's Retreat at Cannon Beach September 23rd - 25th.
- The 6th graders will depart for Outdoor School on September 28th.
- **All-school Workday** will be Saturday, October 1st from 8:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.—FREE lunch provided!
- Fall Drama Production October 13th - 15th.
- **Grandparent's Day** is October 14th from 10:15 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. School will dismiss at noon.
- Come to the DCC/DCS **Harvest Festival** on October 31st from 5 - 8 P.M.



Financial Update

Our budget for this coming year is based on a student population of 200. Currently the school has 200 students enrolled with 9 more in the registration process. While we do seem on pace to garner 200+ students and to maintain the budget, please continue to pray that God will direct families and students to DCS.

Due to your involvement, DCS has been able to make advancements in our instruction for this year and looks to the future to provide an even better education for our students.

THIS YEAR: Through grants and your generous giving during past auctions, DCS was able to make several technological and safety upgrades this past year. Such improvements include the following: the server, firewall and switches, Wi-Fi capabilities, students machines (20 iPads, 30 Chromebooks with cart, and new computers for the computer lab), security cameras, a card-locking system, rekeying the facility, new classroom furniture for students, and a variety of classroom specific materials. As stated earlier, these items were all purchased because of grants and generous giving during school auctions. Thank you!

FOR THE FUTURE: The church elders, who serve as the school board, assessed the condition of our facilities in the context of the numerous ministries DCC facilitates. It has become clearly apparent that we need to look at making some serious upgrades to our facilities. In October, the vision for these upgrades and changes will be shared with church and school families. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we anticipate moving forward with a building project.

Outreach Opportunities

LIVING CLASSROOMS: This fall, our 9th-12th graders will participate in Living Classrooms, a week filled with unique activities that allow for experiential learning. Freshmen will learn about Native Americans and visit Warm Springs, volunteering at a Baptist church on the reservation. Similarly, sophomores will be learning about the armed forces at Camp Withycombe, working with AMEN Ministries, who serves our local veterans and their families. Our 11th and 12th grades will make their annual trips to Washington D.C. and Yellowstone. Please pray for travel mercies for all our groups and for their witness as they have opportunities to serve as the visible presence of Christ to those they interact with.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL WORKDAY: Please join other DCC and DCS families at our second All-School Work Day (October 1st) from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Jobs include painting the hallway and classrooms in the upper gym, landscaping, and installing tetherball poles. There are BIG and small jobs available for the whole family. Experience is not needed but is definitely invited! Lunch will be provided for all participants!



DCC / DCS HARVEST FESTIVAL: Plan now to attend and even help facilitate a booth at our annual Harvest Festival (Oct. 31st). Hundreds of community members will enter our gymnasium turned carnival that night looking for a safe alternative to Halloween's trick-or-treating. Parents and secondary-aged students are invited to help manage a game booth. If you are interested, keep your eyes open for future information or contact Rachel Davidson at 503-290-9393.

Sport and Extra-Curricular Highlights

Over the summer, DCS students were very busy both attending camps and also facilitating camps for the community. One such event was that our girls' basketball team traveled down to Mexico to work with the NOE Center in Morella, Mexico. They facilitated camps and games and were able to minister to the local kids, who this wonderful ministry reaches out to.



Other camps offered through DCS included drama, basketball, volleyball, and the DCC Undefeated Sports camp, which also included soccer and art camps. Hundreds of kids attended these camps and were taught skills and invaluable lessons of hard work and teamwork. In addition, numerous young athletes acknowledged they were interested in talking with someone about accepting the Lord as their Savior or recommitting their lives to Him!! Thank you to all who helped volunteer at these camps!

FALL SPORTS: We are excited to have our student athletes back on campus. This fall, DCS is offering soccer, volleyball, and cross-country. These seasons begin soon, so please check our website for game times and locations for all teams – 5-6th grade, junior high, and high school. We look forward to seeing your face in the crowd supporting our Eagles!

FALL DRAMA: This year, DCS alumnus Caleb Easterbrooks will direct two drama productions, which are scheduled for mid-October and early May. As we desire to maintain our strong fine arts legacy, we enthusiastically welcome him back and eagerly anticipate providing this opportunity for our junior high and high school students. Please look for future information related to our drama program.

Damascus Community Church

Sunday Services: 8:15 & 11:00 AM

Community Groups: 9:45 AM

Children's Sunday School: 8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 AM

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